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Assistant President ²²

New Englanders will feel a surge of pride at President-elect Eisenhower's choice of Sherman Adams to be his top assistant at the White House. A blown-in-the-bottle Yankee, born in Vermont, the outgoing governor of New Hampshire is a product of our own Hope High School and has both family connections and personal friendships in Rhode Island.

But all signs indicate that the selection of Adams is a matter of far more than regional interest. The post he will occupy has grown swiftly in influence and importance as the office of the presidency has expanded vastly in the past two decades. Under Mr. Eisenhower, the job seems likely to be bigger still.

As a general, it was the President-elect's habit to pick the best chief-of-staff he could find and then rely largely on him for orderly and efficient conduct of the work at hand. Adams functioned in precisely this capacity during the recent campaign, when he was constantly at the candidate's elbow, and now has been tapped to carry on in the same manner for the new administration. His assignment will be to serve the chief executive much as Gen. Walter Bedell Smith served the Supreme Allied Commander in World War II, and Gen. Albert M. Gruenther the head man at NATO.

Moreover, authoritative news reports have described plans for rearranging and tightening up the various divisions of the office of the President, which today includes such big and vital agencies as the Budget Bureau, the Council of Economic Advisers, the National Security Council, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Office of Defense Mobilization and the Mutual Security Agency. Between all of these operations and the President, apparently, Adams will be the principal link and channel.

The new assistant President has had an excellent record of accomplishment as state and federal legislator, as governor, as businessman and as politician. Obviously, he is now heading into a task of far greater scope and complexity than any he has tackled so far. His countrymen, particularly here in his own New England, wish him well.